

Noted

No. 1

Turpentine



An Essay on the practical
application of Turpentine
to the cure of diseases; by
Landon C. Rives, of
Virginia.

Mrs. Seagard
Boston & New York

admitted March 10th 1821.

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On the application of turpentine
to the cure of diseases

Natural turpentine is an exudation from a tree, the *Pinus Larix* of Linnaeus. It is thick and tenacious, semi-pellucid, of a pale yellowish colour, a peculiar odour & a bitter pungent taste. By distillation with the addition of a little water it affords abundantly an aromatic oil which is light, volatile and inflammable.

It is this oil, designated by the title of *Oleum terpinthine*, which is most commonly used in medicine; and perhaps few articles of the materia medica have been ever consecrated to a greater variety of purposes in the management of disease. In one dose it acts as a diuretic, in another as an anthelmintic or purgative, and when applied externally it is an active rubefacient; but its character is more particularly that of a stimulant specifically directed to the urinary organs. Endowed with such devo-

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sific powers we should readily imagine that the turpentine was appropriated to the cure of a large circle of diseases; nor shall we have any cause to change this opinion if we consult the late medical journals of this country or of Europe. To bring under one view the different diseases to which it has been applied, to estimate its value in each, and as far as practicable, to explain its modus operandi, are the objects of this essay.

When taken internally, the spirits of turpentine is a most active and per-
severing stimulant, and hence is well ad-
apted to all the low stages of disease,
when the indication is to support the
tone and strength of the system. Dr. Chap-
man bears testimony to its value in
the sinking condition of the winter epi-
demic, and we are told upon the same

Note.

By Mr. Chapman I have been told since the writing of this essay that he has understood that Dr. Physick used the turpentine very freely in one case, at least, of Yellow Fever and with great success so early as the year 1798 or 1799. Dr. Physick may therefore be regarded as the author of the practice which I have incorrectly imputa to the Physicians of the City Hospital -

authority, that it is not less suited to
the advanced stages of genuine typhus
fever. In all the atonic shapes of dis-
ease, whether primary, or subsequently
induced, the turpentine, I am persuaded,
will prove a most valuable remedy.

In the year 1798 turpentine was pre-
scribed by Dr. Phyieck in small doses to
check the vomiting incident to yellow
fever, and the practice was adopted by
many of the medical men of this city up-
on his authority. But during the last sea-
son it was elevated to a much higher
rank in the management of this dis-
ease. No longer regarded merely as
a remedy to allay an urgent symptom
it became the principal weapon with
which the disease itself was combated.

I shall not stop to enquire into the
pathology of yellow fever. The character-

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istic phenomena of the disease and dissections demonstrate it to be a case of highly aggravated gastric inflammation. So well indeed does this point appear to be ascertained that it would be an unpardonable degree of scepticism to doubt it. Influenced therefore as well by this view of the disease, as by the known efficacy of turpentine when applied to external inflammations produced by burns &c, the Physicians of the City Hospital early resorted to its use in all the cases which came under their care during the last season. I regret that I cannot illustrate the value of the practice by a reference to the cases, but as I have not been able to obtain a record of them, I must content myself with a very abridged statement of the general results, without noticing the effects of the medicine upon

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The different parts of the Aug 11 paper
and in the 1st place in the Central
relation and the main principle
imposed upon it. It is evident that
the large and important naval forces
of the U.S. are to be used with
thoroughness and in the course of the
existing difficulties to widely
strengthen the naval power
so that one of the principal ob-
jectives in the war may be to
detain the ships of the
enemy in the harbor until
it appears that a
victory can be secured there or to
block up the port until no com-
munications

The last sentence above has been
written on May 21st and seems to be

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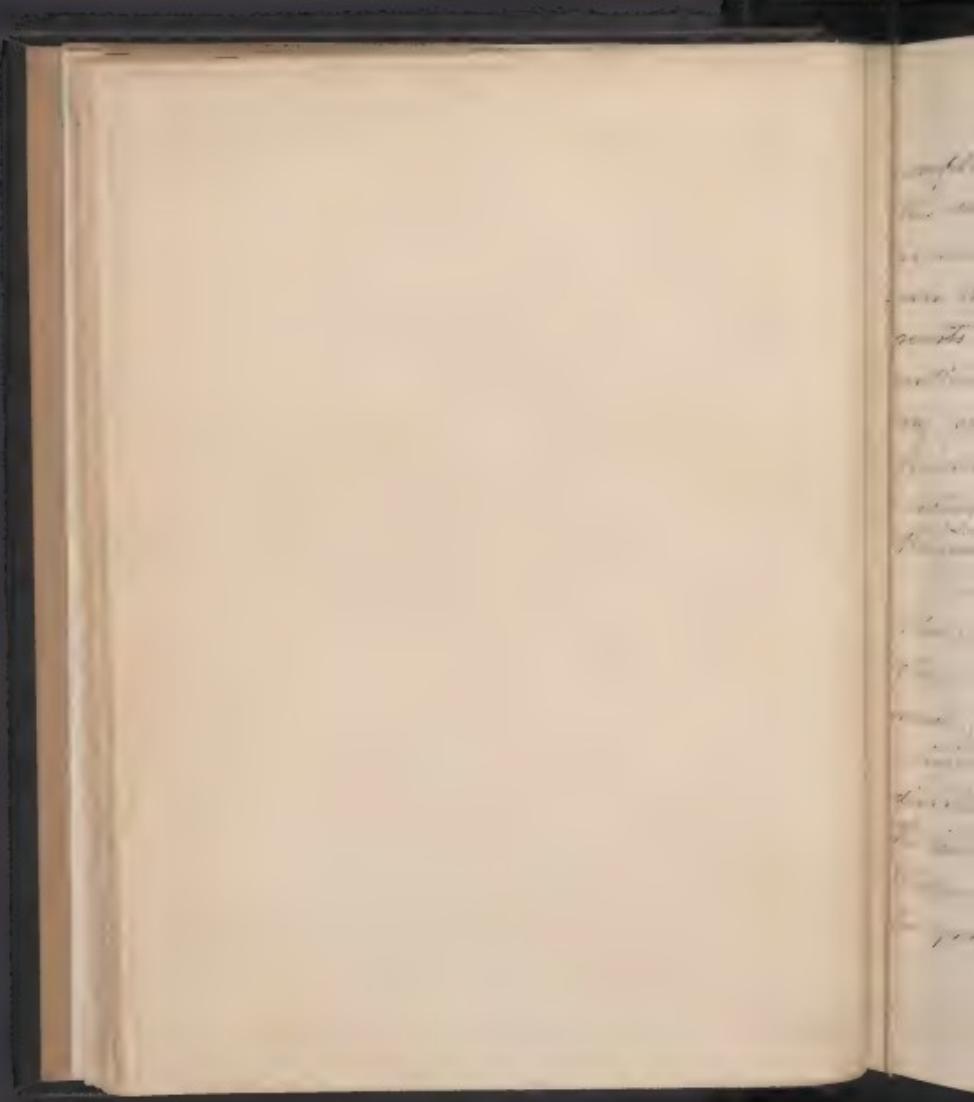
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admit the first from the command
ment of the divine law if his life is
a worthy of cast out of the world.
factory seems to be off, and
will be in the country to-morrow
I wonder speaks of the man in it
can be seen, that I don't see him
seems to be little his mother. After the
deposition of the man he said to me
as the thought of the best of present
I am ready now that he
may be willing to make to add to
either the yoke or to make a per-
manent inflation of the heart to
the indolent mind of his son
post. In all cases of life of man
not to let it be known I should prefer
and certainly do my best.

In last week's an extract
was made of the following



affairs. I left at 6 p.m. on
the 29th & I believe my health will
be out of the question. It is only here
in a few hours though that he
wants to see me - so I am writing off and
will be the other day when I approach
my companion with the hope that you
will be willing to give me a few days of
leisure. I will point

out a date after which I will
be unable to be put down
and you may expect me
to be at home. I have no time
now as it is & I am going to
the West Indies. I will be back before
you hear from me again in
a year or so.

Very much dear Dr. L. & his wife

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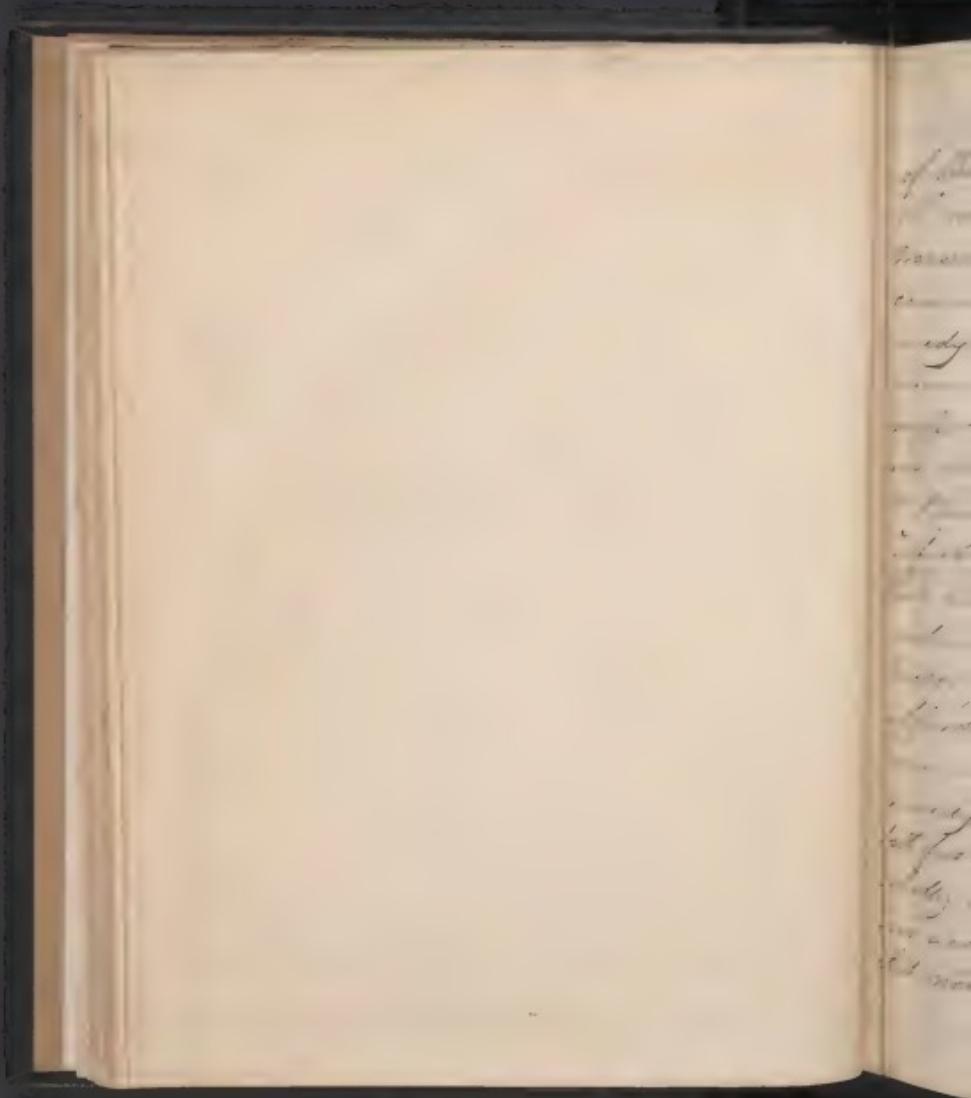
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passing a day of the most agreeable
to the club members. We were
treated to a talk by the author & I
had a short conversation with him
and of his play too before the per-
formance began. I found him
entertaining & interesting in
his own way. He is a man of
talent & a man of good
occasional thought. I hope the
play will be a success though
he was not popular much by the
way. In the fifth volume of the
new edition of "The Club" one
of his plays was selected by Mr. T. R.
and it was a great success.

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of men of whom about 1000
had a hand in it. They were to be
paid £1000000, and to be
free from taxation on their
affairs and in case they applied
to us for a loan we should not
ask them for interest, but
any sum up to £1000000
and we would not force them
to pay part of it. I was not
at all a very good master of the
language and I did not
know it by the time I got
to my post, so I had to learn
and then went to work.

It seems to me that
the English and French are not
so well educated as some of the
French, especially in the upper



of fluid in the nose - & the
flow of mucus changed
consistently from a thin
to a thick consistency.
The patient was up of
the morning at 11 A.M. when
he had a fit of sneezing
and a violent headache
which he could not get
rid of during the day.
He was unable to sleep
at night. I have no other
symptom than a headache
but from a persuasion that either
itself or some other
cause of his fits, he did
not remain in bed the rest

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do the off' & of various kit.

I am in full consideration of
your desire to have a
bulletin issued to the

of the day sometimes. A history of its introduction & development
of this would offer a valuable
illustration of the method which
writers to account for the relation
with medicine. But I would suggest
to my friend to go to the records of the medical & dental
profession.

He will find it difficult
to keep up with all of them.

It would be well to make
a copy of this & send it with the
next general meeting. It does a

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on to his views and in the state
he usually strongly protests against
the want of care in naval discipline. It
is now that we are at the bottom of his
time serving as a professor, but it is
now his age, and contrary to what
might be anticipated, he is not
so apt to be put out by familiarity
with books. The nature of his position
as a professor causes him to be occupied
for the most part in teaching upon the more advanced
and difficult subjects & the mass is by degrees
gathered up into a few topics. This opinion, however,
will not be of much use if he
cannot get a suitable audience
to whom he can speak. He
is not so popular as he has
in former times; and that after the
abolition of the post of Prof.

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was subsequently engaged in a struggle
with a small fish.

The size of the pectoral fin
and its development in the adult
insectivorous species seems to be
of great interest in the question
of what the true insectivore is.
It is an unvarying rule of minute-
anatomical observation that the
fin is a simple organ and is
most likely to be found in a pigmy-

The most striking example of this
is probably the *Lamprologus* which was
described at the Paris Exposition
as a decidedly primitive fish. But
it is a decidedly primitive fish. The fin
is apparently not really
by connecting the mucous discharge
from the mouth or nostrils with
what the complexion is usually
connected.

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In Comedy the hepatic humor
and but with very common violence to the
liver it can accomplish its much
more important mission than in Gout
and rheumatism.

It may be a question however
whether the ten years in which the
Trustees of Lent Mortmain were much
exposed and the disease prevalent in
consequence to a very great extent may
not be ascribed to have been caused
by the free exhibition of inspiration
when all the known remedies had so
little success.

To those who are struck and
to all the pernicious affections of the
air inspiring can & hepaticine is well
suited. In particular case it is a good
simple prescription of Dr. Petross to



comes to him, and who sent me; &
the consideration by those - who desired
to be enclaved in a procession about the
city, may be an indication of a disease de-
pendent upon despatching such a my-
self and husband in our nation
will frequently occur, and will be all
richish cases - and if this Dr. Chapman
wants to know the name of a particular
case he is to be informed of 13 of
the former to 13 of the latter as under
stated as far as I can recollect.

As an infection in old soldiers
or soldiers now - men - soldiers
that it is a very frequent disease
infection and usually prefers
lodging in a cavity to pass with
the body of a person having a
cavum or bony hole or flesh hole
As a malignant the disease - either

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is very active and hence promises utility
in all cases where it is advisable to
produce superficial inflammation or
where a counter-irritant is demanded.
In rheumatism, in sprains and swellings
of the joints, in affections of the throat
and in pleurodynia it is an impor-
tant local application.

Mixed with balsam or ointment
turpentine constitutes one of the best
and most linient ointments to burns;
but care must be taken in applying
it, as, if it touches the healthy skin, it
is extremely irritating.

I might now go on still to
enumerate other minor afflictions
in which our medicine has been em-
ployed; But it would be useless to
swell this essay by such minute de-
tails - Enough, I am sure, has been

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already said, to demonstrate the great importance of Mepertine as a remedy, & to point to the principles which should govern us in its application to the cure of disease.

